

TODAY'S VERSE Isaiah 55:11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.



FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY People who call our community their own. Mathew Hewitt is a social studies teacher at Sheridan High School. He enjoys making the topics in his curriculum applicable to his students' lives.

And Another Few Things...

1. McCormick's Creek State Park Reopens For Limited Use Tomorrow

McCormick's Creek State Park, which was severely damaged by the recent tornado, is open for limited use. The park's Canyon Inn restaurant is fully open but many park trails remain closed.

2. Trine Grapplers Named NWCA Scholar All-Americans

Two members of the Trine University men's wrestling team have been recognized for their efforts in the classroom as Scholar All-Americans by the National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA).

3. American Water Flushing Water Mains in Sheridan April 9 - 13, 2023

Indiana American Water will conduct water main flushing in the Sheridan service area April 9 - 13, 2023 from 10 p.m. to 8 a.m. each day. The company conducts the annual maintenance program to assure high-quality water service.

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Boomer Bits



Ask Rusty - Retired Public Servant Feels Government Pension Offset is "Unjust"

Dear Rusty: I'm a retired firefighter and live in Ohio. I earned Social Security from my side employment, but the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) hit my Social Security very hard. My wife worked in the school system and earned a state "SERS" pension.



ASK Rusty Social Security Advisor

Social Security Matters

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA).

survivor benefits are paid to all beneficiaries. I'm certainly not defending it, but I've researched why the GPO was enacted decades ago.

Historically, ever since spousal and survivor benefits became part of Social Security's benefit structure in the late 1930s, if a spouse also has their own personally earned SS benefit, any spousal/survivor benefit they also became entitled to was offset by their personally earned SS retirement amount.

To give you a more personal

perspective, if your wife had, instead, worked outside of the OH school system and was entitled to a full Social Security benefit based on her own earnings from which she contributed to SS, any survivor benefit she might become entitled to from you would still be offset by her personally earned SS retirement benefit.

Dear Retired Public Servant:

The provision you deem as "unjust" isn't the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) which affects SS retirement benefits for those who also have a "non-covered" pension (a pension earned without contributing to Social Security); rather it is the Government Pension Offset (GPO) which also affects those who have a pension earned without contributing to Social Security.

Newswoman Tammy Bruce Shares What Can Change The Future Of America

By John Grimaldi

Fox News reporter Tammy Bruce says that in the days before the Internet and social media, politicians were used to being able to define reality based on what they told us.

Now, however, there are cameras everywhere, she added, and they allow us to see for ourselves what really happens when events such as what happened on January 6, 2021, in Washington DC occur.

She told BFA host Rebecca Weber, CEO of the Association of Mature American Citizens, that "some people deserved to go to jail." But, she noted, footage of surveillance cameras reveals that no, it was hardly an event that could be compared with Pearl Harbor.

others portrayed it. She said that the surveillance video her Fox News colleague Tucker Carlson obtained "reveals the absurdity of what is being said by Democrats who have relied on censorship throughout the last several years of social media so that they can try to control reality."

Tammy published an article recently on AMAC's website focused on a riot that provided a surprising reminder of how nefarious and disgusting corruption in the FBI really is. It took place in Atlanta, GA. She wrote, "35 people were detained and 23 people were arrested on domestic terrorism for a violent attack on the building site of a police training center."

See JOHN Page A5

Know The Early Warning Signs Of COPD

(StatePoint) Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a long-term lung disease that makes it hard to breathe. A leading cause of disability and death in the United States, more than 12.5 million people have been diagnosed, and millions more may have the disease without even knowing it.

The American Lung Association, funded with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is sharing the following insights to help Americans recognize the warning signs of COPD and take action:

- Early Warning Signs of COPD
• Not everyone has the same COPD symptoms, but some of the more common early warning signs and symptoms may include

See COPD Page A5

Community Mourns Deaths

Four people, two from Noblesville and two from Fishers, were killed when their plane crashed Wednesday night in the Gulf of Mexico near Venice, Fla.

According to The Times' newsgathering partners at WTHR, the victims were Rick and Beth Beaver, of Noblesville, and Jeff and Patty Lumpkin, of Fishers.

Officials said their plane went down in the Gulf shortly after takeoff from the Venice Municipal Airport.

Those who saw the crash immediately called 911. Now, the NTSB and FAA are working to determine what caused the crash.

See MOURNS Page A5



Sunrise/Sunset RISE: 7:15 a.m. SET: 8:16 p.m.

High/Low Temperatures HIGH: 64 °F LOW: 36 °F

Today is... Holy Saturday Slow Art Day Zoo Lovers Day

What Happened On This Day

- 1904 France and the United Kingdom sign the Entente cordiale. The treaty, which was initially designed to regulate the countries' colonial interests in Africa, later evolved into the Triple Entente to fight Germany in World War I.
• 1977 The Clash release their debut album of the same name. The British combo around lead vocalist Joe Strummer is considered one of the most influential early punk rock bands.

Births On This Day

- 1918 Betty Ford American wife of Gerald R. Ford, 40th First Lady of the United States

Deaths On This Day

- 1973 Pablo Picasso Spanish painter, sculptor

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HONEST HOOSIER

Here's hoping you all have a wonderful and blessed Easter!



TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

One or two sugary drinks a day can increase your risk of developing diabetes by 25 percent. Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each week in The Times and online at www.thetimes24-7.com



TODAY'S QUOTE

A reader shared this on determining sex of puppies. A dad was explaining the process to his young son, and then picked up the puppy and turned it over. "It's a boy," the dad declared. "But how could you tell," the youngster said. "You only looked at the bottom of its feet." -A Reader

TODAY'S JOKE

What do you get when you cross a boxer and an artist? Muhammad Dali.

OBITUARIES

None

The Times appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank GARY McINTOSH for subscribing!



7 DAY FORECAST: FRI 60, SAT 36/64, SUN 38/66, MON 40/70, TUE 44/72, WED 47/74, THU 50/78



Photo courtesy of the City of Westfield

Fallen Hoosier Hero's Memorial

City of Westfield Announces Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony

The community is invited to join the City of Westfield for a Memorial Day remembrance ceremony for those who have given their lives for our country. The ceremony will be held at 10 am on Thursday, May 25th, at the Fallen Hoosier Heroes Memorial at 401 N. Union Street.

"We are honored to pay tribute to the brave men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice

servicing our country," said Westfield Mayor Andy Cook. "We are forever grateful for their sacrifices and the sacrifices of their family members."

Those interested in attending in person should arrive before the start of the program.

The ceremony will be emceed by Lisa Wilken, Air Force Veteran and Board member of the Indiana Veteran Support Council, featuring several

distinguished speakers. The Communications Detachment, 14th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division will present the Presentation and Retiring of the Colors.

Parking is available at Christ United Methodist Church and will serve as a rain location in inclement weather.

In addition, the City of Westfield would like to honor our Veterans killed in action. Please

take a moment to fill out our Honoring Westfield Veterans form if you have an immediate family member killed in action. For this submission, immediate family is defined as parents, siblings, spouse, child by blood, adoption or marriage, grandparents, and grandchildren.

If you have questions, please contact Kayla Arnold, Director of Westfield Welcome, at karnold@westfield.in.gov.

Former Carmel Mayor, Jane Reiman Endorses Kevin 'Woody' Rider For Carmel's Next Mayor

Jane Reiman, former mayor of Carmel, has endorsed Kevin 'Woody' Rider's mayoral campaign.

Reiman said the minute she found out that Rider was running for Carmel's next Mayor, she was all in, and states that there has never been anyone running that is as prepared as Rider.

"Carmel is a beautiful but complicated city. The next mayor must have years of experience and a deep, well-rounded understanding of the city. Kevin 'Woody' Rider has that and so much more," said Reiman. "He's a business owner, a sixteen year Carmel City Councilor, and a twelve year Plan Commission member. He has consistently spent time over the years getting to know the residents and city employees."

Looking back at Carmel's previous mayors, Reiman mentions she has spent time helping several of the mayors getting acclimated in their new role, "because there is no book on how to be Mayor," said Reiman.

Reiman, served as Carmel's mayor from 1980 to 1987, and was responsible for much of Carmel's im-



KEVIN RIDER

proved infrastructure and initiating the planning of Civic Square. In addition, Reiman is known for truly loving the city and the people, and it was under her tenure that Carmel really began to experience a transformation.

"Carmel can't sacrifice having someone who isn't up to speed or not having someone that cares about Carmel as much as Kevin does," said Reiman. "He's a problem solver, and a great listener, and he's going to take care of our city. There is no doubt about that."

Reiman urges everyone to get out and vote on May 2, 2023 for the upcoming Primary election.

To learn more about Kevin 'Woody' Rider, visit: <https://riderforcarmel.com/>

TheTimes24-7.com

Letters

April is National Donate Life Month

Dear Editor:
The Children's Organ Transplant Association was founded in April 1986 when Bloomington, Ind. residents rallied around a toddler who needed a liver transplant. In less than eight weeks, the community raised more than \$100,000 to place the boy on the organ waiting list. But he died before an organ was found. Those community volunteers and his parents turned tragedy into triumph by using the funds to help others.

For more than 35 years, COTA has assisted

thousands of families by helping to raise funds for a lifetime of transplant-related expenses. We have built extensive volunteer networks across the nation in an attempt to ensure no child or young adult needing an organ or tissue transplant is excluded from a transplant waiting list due to lack of funds.

We need your help today to make sure that tragedies, like the one that was the catalyst in our founding, are not repeated.

April is National Donate Life Month. The U.S. achieved a historic

milestone in 2022 with one million transplants performed. However, every day 17 people die in this country waiting for an organ transplant. Another person is added to the nation's organ transplant waiting list every nine minutes. One organ donor can save eight lives. Please go to www.RegisterMe.org and register to be a designated organ and/or tissue donor.

Rick Lofgren, President
Children's Organ Transplant Association
Bloomington, Ind.

Noblesville Author Rhonda Parker Taylor Makes #1 Best Seller

New novel "Crossroads" by Rhonda Parker Taylor is released, a riveting suspense novel with rich characters and unexpected moments. Foreword written by Mariel Hemingway and endorsed by J.J. Hebert.

"Crossroads: A Suspense Novel" by Rhonda Parker Taylor has been released worldwide. This thrilling, 285-page novel, which has achieved Amazon Bestseller status as #1 in the "Jury" category and #39 in the "Detective" category, follows Paris Pennington, a successful and career-oriented loan analyst, as she begins to question her life's decisions - and acknowledge how much of her personal life she's neglected for the sake of work.

In the midst of these reflections, Paris is selected as the jury foreman for a case involving the murder of a 15-year-old girl, and her life begins to unravel. People around Paris start having accidents, falling ill, and even dying, all while her relationships deteriorate and her sense of normalcy disappears.

As the complex, turbulent story unfolds, Paris faces harrowing challenges both internal and external that throw her well-organized existence into turmoil. With a broad cast of relatable, complex characters and a simmering intensity throughout, Parker Taylor pulls readers into Paris's story and prompts them to examine their own choices, thoughts, and actions.

Drawing from personal experience in finance, childhood experiences with resilience, and intimate knowledge of the novel's setting, Indianapolis, the author creates a vibrant and cohesive world that feels accurate and "lived

in" down to the last detail. The novel examines themes of envy and anger, and what happens when lives are thrust in new, expected directions. In this world of murder, tragedy, and pursuing justice, readers are captivated by suspense and compelled to find out what happens next.

Crossroads (ISBN: 9781958729533) can be purchased through retailers worldwide, including Barnes and Noble and Amazon. The paperback retails for \$18.99. Wholesale orders are available through Ingram.

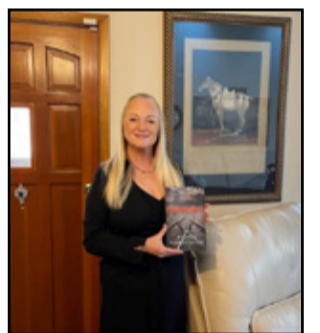
See Mariel Hemingway's introduction to Crossroads at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zFJnJC4s-CLU&t=3s>

Learn more, order a review copy, or request an interview at <https://rhondaparkertaylor.com/> or Email at RhondaP@rhondaparkertaylor.com

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From the back cover:
"Rhonda Parker Taylor's book keeps readers engaged not only in Paris's personal life, but also the world of murder, tragedy, death, and the hope for justice, keeping you literally at the edge of your seat and wondering what the outcome will be." - Golden Globe-nominated American Actress and Author Mariel Hemingway.

"Crossroads, the first



RHONDA PARKER TAYLOR

book by author Rhonda Parker Taylor, is a captivating crime novel that will keep you intrigued from start to finish. With a bevy of characters, some likeable and some not so much, the book explores murder, career/life balance, friendship, betrayal, and a little bit of love. Paris Pennington is a protagonist that you find yourself rooting for from start to finish, even as those close to her mysteriously fall. A well-written suspense novel you'll have a hard time putting down." - #1 Bestselling Author J.J. Hebert.

She's Paris Pennington. A lovely workaholic about to be confronted with adversity and chaos, with challenges leading her to restlessness, uncertainty, and questioning her life choices and her current path. The fabric of her life begins to be picked apart as people around her start dying.

A crossroad leads her to make a change and promises to fulfill her dreams while an embattled personal war between past and present comes together, testing loyalty and the forces of envy that may prevent tomorrow from coming.

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rhondaparkertaylor.com

Writer Urges Caution on Senate Bill 37

Dear Editor,
Living in a county with an interstate highway running through it is both a blessing and a curse. My county is blessed with Interstate 70, which offers relatively easy commuting into metro Indianapolis. However, drug trafficking is anecdotally greater here than in counties without interstate highways.

Indiana counties with interstate highways passing through should therefore take advantage of such highways in every way possible. One example would be the food & beverage tax. Any county that has an interstate highway passing through would be foolish to NOT have a food & beverage tax. With three exits along I-70, our county receives an additional 1% tax on purchases made in restaurants at each of its exits. This extra 1% also applies to restaurants elsewhere in the county, as enjoyed by residents.

Henry County's food & beverage tax was initially allowed by the state legislature in 1987 to build the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame. Other projects funded by the food & beverage tax include our Ivy Tech campus, the Arts Park Pavilion, Middletown Historic Society, Knightstown's iconic Hoosier Gym, and several rails-to-trails projects, among others. The net effect has improved our county's quality of life

and quality of place, as well as business generated by these tourist destinations.

Senate Bill 37 is now up for consideration in the State House. If signed into law, SB37 will phase-out by 2045 all current food & beverage taxes across Indiana, "other than the stadium and convention building authority food and beverage tax and the historic hotels food and beverage tax." Translation: the Indiana Convention Center and Lucas Oil Stadium will continue to be subsidized by food and beverage taxes from Marion and its surrounding "doughnut" counties, as will the French Lick Springs Resort and West Baden Springs Hotel in Orange County, but no other counties will be allowed a food & beverage tax! Is this fair to the rest of Indiana? Hardly!

15 Indiana counties and 19 Indiana municipalities currently benefit from the food & beverage tax. Not all of these have interstate highways passing through them. Should SB37 be signed into law, this would be yet another example of metro Indy getting to prosper at the expense of rural Indiana.

SB37 would force Indiana counties to give up one of the precious few economic development tools available at the county level. Having served on County Council for 12 years, I witnessed

first-hand how Indiana's counties, especially rural counties, are being fiscally squeezed by Indianapolis. For example, the state particularly targets county health departments and county park departments, forcing them to raise user fees. As user fees can only be raised so much, county parks, for example, could benefit from a food & beverage tax. Henry County Memorial Park is a true gem, especially as compared with most other counties (not every Indiana county even has a county park). Our park hosts the Veterans Museum and Saddle Club, both of which benefit from the food & beverage tax - and generate tourist revenue.

Critics of the food & beverage tax blame mismanagement in one county, which never built a riverside convention center that was the basis for its 1989 implementation. However, in Henry County, the food & beverage tax committee that oversees the process, is a group of citizen volunteers appointed by the County Commissioners, County Council, New Castle Mayor, and New Castle City Council. They function well in terms of transparency and in their oversight of designated projects throughout the county.

Nate LaMar
New Castle

Thanks for reading The Times!

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Attorney General Todd Rokita Invites Hoosiers To Visit IndianaUnclaimed.gov To Hunt For Unclaimed Property This Easter

Attorney General Todd Rokita invites Hoosiers to hop on over to IndianaUnclaimed.gov and see what "egg-citing" treasures await you.

"Easter is a great time to spend with loved ones. So, why not find a little "egg-stra" cash to have some fun. It's my office's commitment to return unclaimed property to Hoosiers," Attorney General Rokita said. "This Easter holiday is a perfect time to hop online and start searching for something every bunny will love."

Last year, Attorney General Rokita's Unclaimed Property Division returned \$62 million to Hoosiers, and you could be next. You never know what the Easter Bunny might leave in your basket.

Some property owners in the Unclaimed Property Division's database include such holiday-appropriate first or last names of Easter, Egg, Spring, Church, and Sunday. Don't put all your eggs in one basket though, make sure you also search for your loved ones or your business.

Test your "cluck" at the egg hunt — and check out some of the types of

property that might go unclaimed:

1. Unclaimed wages or commissions
2. Money orders
3. Safety deposit box contents
4. Savings and checking accounts
5. Refunds
6. Overpayments such as:

7. Credit card balances
 8. Cell phone bills
 9. DMV payments
- Once unclaimed property is in its custody, the Unclaimed Property Division conducts an outreach effort to locate the rightful owners or heirs.

Individuals and/or businesses have 25 years in which to claim money once it is reported to the Unclaimed Property Division.

Just this year we've already returned over \$21 million to Hoosiers, with nearly \$800 million just waiting to be claimed.

So be sure to check IndianaUnclaimed.gov or text CLAIM to 46220 to search your name, family or business and have an "egg-cellent" Easter.

You can also contact the Unclaimed Property Division at 1-866-462-5246 or updmail@atg.in.gov.

Local Students Named To Dean's List At Washington University In St. Louis

The following students have been named to the dean's list for the fall 2022 semester at Washington University in St. Louis:

•Christina Chun is enrolled in the university's College of Arts & Sciences. To qualify for the Dean's List in the College of Arts & Sciences, students must earn a semester grade point average of 3.6 or above and be enrolled in at least 14 graded units.

•Ally Foster is enrolled in the university's College of Arts & Sciences. To qualify for the Dean's List in the College of Arts & Sciences, students must earn a semester grade point average of 3.6 or above and be enrolled in at least 14 graded units.

•Neal Joshi is enrolled in the university's College of Arts & Sciences. To qualify for the Dean's List in the College of Arts & Sciences, students must earn a semester grade point average of 3.6 or above and be enrolled in at least 14 graded units.

least 14 graded units.

•Morgan Ye is enrolled in the university's College of Arts & Sciences. To qualify for the Dean's List in the College of Arts & Sciences, students must earn a semester grade point average of 3.6 or above and be enrolled in at least 14 graded units.

•Ethan Zhang is enrolled in the university's College of Arts & Sciences. To qualify for the Dean's List in the College of Arts & Sciences, students must earn a semester grade point average of 3.6 or above and be enrolled in at least 14 graded units.

•Leonardo Zhou is enrolled in the university's College of Arts & Sciences. To qualify for the Dean's List in the College of Arts & Sciences, students must earn a semester grade point average of 3.6 or above and be enrolled in at least 14 graded units.

Each student is from the city of Carmel.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony In Westfield

Join Chamber Partners and Community Leaders on Tuesday, April 18, for a Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony at the Grand Universe InfoCenter in Westfield.

Grand Universe aspires to share the wonders of Earth and Space science through a world class STEM Education Campus they plan to build right here in Westfield, Indiana. The InfoCenter will serve as a gathering place for those working to make this dream a reality. The Grand Universe STEM Campus will include a full dome digital planetarium, solar and deep space telescopes,

and the exclusive Earth Environmental Observatory for public engagement and student powered research, with walking trails, biking paths, and outdoor youth activity areas.

Their mission is to ignite and sustain lifelong learning in science and technology. Grand Universe invites curious minds from all backgrounds to explore, create, and pursue their dreams.

This event is open to all the Chamber's Partners, Members, and the public. Advanced registration is not required.



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Senate Strikes Parental Consent Requirement From Bill Targeting Student Pronouns In Schools

By Casey Smith
Indiana Capital Chronicle

A controversial “parental rights” bill was pared down by Indiana senators on Thursday to remove a provision that would have required schools get consent from parents if a student requests to change their name or pronouns.

The amended version of House Bill 1608 now stipulates that parents only must be notified within five business days about a requested name or pronoun change.

“It started out coming out of committee as (requiring) consent, and that’s important,” Senate President Pro Tem Rodric Bray said of the chamber’s decision to scale back the bill.

“It can be challenging, though, as you play that out,” he continued. “When you start talking about getting consent from a parent, or parents, and there’s lots of divorce situations out there where that can be contentious, and we thought, well, notification advises the parents of what’s going on, and they can then meet and engage in the school, and that’s a satisfactory result.”

An amendment adopted to the bill on Thursday also deletes language that would have protected teachers who refuse to use a name or pronouns that are inconsistent with a student’s legal name and biological sex.

The latest bill Bray said his caucus has had “lengthy communication” with House Republicans about the changes to the bill — which is why it stalled on the chamber calendar for more than a week before it was called down for amendments.

Senate President Pro Tem Rodric Bray (Monroe Bush for the Indiana Capital Chronicle)

The Senate leader said he expects the House to approve the changes, assuming the bill advances in a Senate floor vote that could come as early as next week.

“It’s a tricky issue. And there’s reasonable people who come down on both sides of that ... it didn’t go necessarily along party lines,” Bray said. “There was some question out there about why are we engaging in this space at all? A number of schools wanted some guidance from the state

on this because they’re all grappling with it. It’s a pretty challenging issue on the school board level, as well. So, it’s just a very difficult issue to handle and get on top of.”

The latest draft of the amended bill requires schools to inform parents if a student requests to change their name or pronouns for any reason — including to a nickname.

Although an earlier version of the bill would have blocked adherence to the student’s request without a parent’s explicit consent, bill sponsor Sen. Stacey Donato, R-Logansport, said teachers could now grant a student’s request as long as notice has already been given to a parent.

Previous language would have additionally prevented schools from disciplining teachers that still use a child’s old name or pronouns — even with parental permission to use the new, preferred versions — if the employee or staff member does so out of a “religious conviction.” That part of the bill is gone, too.

The bill retains language that would also prohibit instruction on “human

sexuality” for students in Pre-K through 3rd grade, although sexual education typically does not start until the fourth or sixth grades under existing state standards.

Private schools are exempted from the language restricting “human sexuality.”

Democrat amendments fail Three separate amendments offered by Democrats failed, however.

One proposed change would have given students a chance to rescind their name or pronoun change request in an attempt to give them more time to consider whether or not they want their parents to be notified.

Sen. Shelli Yoder, D-Bloomington testifies before the Senate Chamber. (File photo from 2022)

Another would have ensured that school psychologists, social workers, nurses, and counselors would not be forced to violate their professional codes of conduct and ethics to adhere to the bill’s provisions. The bill already says that school staff are not required to

break federal laws in order to be compliant.

Sen. Shelli Yoder, D-Bloomington, suggested that — if lawmakers are going to regulate pronouns — they should crack down on words like “mankind” and “manmade,” or phrases like, “Hey, guys,” when addressing groups of students.

“If this is such an issue, when referring to people by their biological sex, then I think language must mat

Still, Senate Minority Leader Greg Taylor, D-Indianapolis, said he was “surprised” the GOP caucus supported the changes made to the bill.

“I don’t understand it ... it’s causing problems,” Taylor said of the bill overall. “Young people have to make the hard decision to even come out and express how they feel. Then we’re going to make it even harder by saying, ‘If you tell me in confidence, and I’m somebody you trust, I have no choice but to inform your parents.’ Now why would a child tell their teacher first before they tell their parents if they really believe that their parent was going to be accepting?”

Bill author Rep. Michelle Davis, R-Whiteland, maintains that her proposal intends to “empower Hoosier parents by reinforcing that they are in the driver’s seat when it comes to introducing sensitive topics to their children.”

Critics of the bill have argued that it’s part of a nationwide wave of legislation “singling out LGBTQ+ people and their families.” Supporters say parents have the “right” and “responsibility” to control what their children learn — and are called — when at school.

The proposal is reminiscent of Florida’s “Don’t Say Gay” law that has been described by some as one of the most “hateful” pieces of legislation in the country.

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JOHN From Page A1

erty and building materials and police officers. Also typical of Antifa, 21 of the 23 arrested had come from out of state, as ABC News reported, 'Some from as far away as Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New York. Two protesters charged are from other countries, one From France and another from Canada, according to police.'" Additionally, "one of the two locals who were arrested and charged with domestic terrorism was identified as Thomas Jurgens, a 'Staff attorney with the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), the left-leaning anti-hate group, according to the State Bar of Georgia and his since-deleted LinkedIn page,' according to the New York Post."

During her BFA interview, Tammy noted that "it's not just the SPLC, but it's also the ACLU ... [at issue] is the question of where is the money coming from? Clearly, it's a segment of extremist activists that are funding

these liberal entities that [once] fought for freedom of speech and genuine civil rights. But now it's political extremism. Only two of [those arrested in Atlanta] were local. Everyone else came from out of state and in a few instances, from other countries. And that's what Antifa does. They import these people. These were not Atlantans rioting. These were people who move about as a team. And this is the kind of thing that the media really needs to make sure people know. During the George Floyd riots, two lawyers were arrested for throwing Molotov cocktails into a police vehicle. They were lawyers working at firms in New York City. They have been disbarred, thank goodness and they pled guilty to the charges. But then the Biden administration came in and reversed that and allowed them to plead guilty to lesser charges. So why would the Biden administration intervene with two people

who are lawyers who committed violence, who abused their licenses and their commitment to the law, making it easier for them to get lighter sentences, which they did?" It is almost as though, Tammy shared, "that these entities are working together to cause as much chaos and disruption as possible."

And besides the government's efforts to squash the truth, Tammy believes Americans can still save our country. To her, it's time the "National Republican Party and its leadership must step up." To her, "It's about states taking control locally where your voice is more heard more rapidly...and keeping control in that regard." And after seeing what DeSantis and other states have done in regard to issues like banning CRT and protecting your children, Tammy insists that "those must be templates for the federal government as well as for every other state in our union."

COPD From Page A1

shortness of breath, a cough that may bring up mucus or phlegm, chest tightness, fatigue and re-occurring lung infections. People may think these symptoms are because of aging, smoking or being out of shape and become less active to avoid experiencing them. These signs and symptoms shouldn't be ignored. Speak with your healthcare provider if you experience any of these symptoms and discuss any activities you are avoiding due to breathing difficulties.

Risk Factors and Diagnosis
Anyone can develop COPD, but people aged 40 or older and those who smoke or used to smoke are at higher risk. Cigarette smoking is the leading cause of COPD, however 1 in 4 people with COPD never smoked cigarettes. Secondhand smoke, air pollution, workplace exposures to dust, fumes and chemicals, and a genetic condition called alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency (AATD) are also causes and risk factors for COPD.

People are often diagnosed at later stages of COPD when the disease

has progressed because they delayed sharing their early symptoms with their healthcare provider. Everyone with risk factors and those experiencing early warning signs should talk to their healthcare provider about any breathing issues. It's especially important for women to do so. Because COPD has been historically thought of as a "man's disease" or an "old person's disease," women are sometimes misdiagnosed or receive a delayed diagnosis. But overall, more women are affected by COPD than men and the death rate is higher in women. In addition, women tend to develop the disease at a younger age.

To diagnose COPD, the healthcare provider will evaluate symptoms, gather a complete health history, conduct a health exam and perform a pulmonary function test called spirometry. The results of the spirometry test can determine if you have COPD.

Lifestyle Changes
In addition to treatment, certain lifestyle changes may make a difference, as patients living with COPD know firsthand. After

being diagnosed with stage 2 COPD in the wake of a COVID-19 infection, Bob F. partnered with his doctor and started monitoring his breathing at home and leaned into exercise. His hard work has paid off, with his last pulmonary function test showing that the disease has not progressed, and he is in better overall shape than before.

"Most of the advice you should follow is no different than what doctors tell us all. Eat right, exercise, sleep, drink plenty of water, manage your weight and don't smoke. If you do these things, you may slow the progression of your COPD," says Bob.

But you shouldn't wait until a COPD diagnosis to make these changes. Lifestyle changes like quitting smoking, avoiding secondhand smoke and reducing your exposure to air pollution may reduce your risk for developing COPD. If you are experiencing shortness of breath or other respiratory symptoms, do not delay talking to your healthcare provider about your symptoms or COPD risk factors. For more information about COPD, visit Lung.org/COPD.

MOURNS From Page A1

"I think in this world, we need great people, and when we lose them, you feel it hard, you feel it deeply," said Nathan Peternel, lead pastor at Life Church, Fishers. "They weren't just parishioners or people in the church, you know, they were friends."

Peternel said he's still in shock after hearing the news.

"He said, 'There's been a plane crash,' and I said, 'Was it Jeff?' and that's who it was. Yeah, just heartbreaking," Peternel said.

Patty was a kind and caring woman, Peternel said, and a real estate agent at Carpenter Realty in Indianapolis. Jeff and he met when he came up for prayer years earlier. The pair became fast friends, and later, Jeff even served as a mentor to his own son.

"He was somebody

who walked around with a big smile and just a lot of encouragement, so I think everybody that's found out is just a little bit shocked," Peternel said.

It's news that came that much harder knowing how much Jeff prided himself on aviation safety.

"He was definitely a rule follower, definitely, when it came to that, and he was always trying to tell my son, 'You've got to obey the guidelines,'" Peternel said. "So he was very much somebody who wanted to have everything in order. He would have been a by-the-book kind of guy."

Rick ran Beaver Construction Management in Noblesville. Beth founded Indiana Elite Cheer and Tumbling, a staple for many young women around central Indiana. Outside of Indiana

Elite Thursday, girls and their parents came out to leave messages for Coach Beth. Now, candles, flowers and notes to her family surround the building, a tribute to the well-loved coach.

Peternel said this is a tough loss for all that knew them. He saw the foursome together just weeks ago.

"They actually came to an event we had just last month and they all sat at the same table and were excited to raise money for missions," Peternel said.

As the news of this loss settles in for himself, the families and their church communities, he said there's comfort knowing that in the end, Jeff and Patty were together.

"They loved each other tremendously, so the idea that they were together, I think they probably would have wanted it that way," Peternel said.

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In The Home

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Growing Herbs In Containers



MELINDA MYERS
Columnist

Keep your favorite herbs within easy reach for cooking and seasoning by growing them in containers. A few pots set by your door and grill or on the patio, deck, or balcony make it easy to include some homegrown flavor.

Start by growing those herbs you like to use for seasoning food and beverages, making pesto, or preserving. Include some with fragrance for a bit of aromatherapy or for your craft projects.

Make sure the plants you select will thrive in the amount of sunlight in the growing space. Most herbs prefer full sun but some like mint, thyme, chives, parsley, and lemon balm will tolerate some shade. A bit of afternoon shade is welcome to many sun-loving plants growing in hotter regions. Check the plant tag or seed packet for detailed planting information.

You can grow individual plants in their own container. Place these among other pots to create an attractive display. Or mix several different herbs in one



Photo courtesy of All-America Selections

'Dolce Fresca' basil growing and thriving in a container in full sun.

larger container to create a herb garden in a single pot. Make sure all the herbs will thrive in the same soil moisture and sunlight.

In general, place three or four plants in a 10-12" pot, four to six in a 14-16" container, and six to eight in a 16 to 20" planter. Adjust this number based on the size of the transplants purchased and the mature size and growth habit of the herb selected.

Use a container with drainage holes to provide proper drainage and reduce the risk of root rot. Terra cotta pots dry quickly and are a good choice for those gardening in wetter regions or who tend to overwater. Plastic, fiberglass, and glazed pots don't dry out as quickly. Self-watering pots have water reservoirs to extend the time between watering.

Use a quality potting mix that provides adequate drainage, as most herbs require well-drained soil. Whether planting seeds or plants, you will want to leave space between the top of the potting mix and the container. This allows you to water thoroughly without washing the soil out of the pot. Leave a space about half an inch in small planters and an inch or more between the top of the pot and potting mix in larger containers.

Water new plantings and seedlings often enough to keep the soil slightly moist. Gradually reduce frequency and water thoroughly when the top inch of soil is crumbly and dry. Check containers once a day and more often in extremely hot weather. Water thoroughly as needed.

Reduce watering and increase success by in-

corporating Wild Valley Farms' wool pellets (wildvalleyfarms.com) into the planting mix. This sustainable soil amendment reduces watering by up to 25% and adds air space for better plant growth.

Harvest a few leaves and stems as needed throughout the growing season. Regular harvesting encourages more growth for future harvests. Herbs have the most intense flavor when harvested just before flowering. You can remove even more when large amounts of herbs are needed for preserving and craft projects. Cut annual herbs back by 50 to 75% and perennial herbs by one-third at one time. The plants will recover for future harvests.

Make room for some herb-filled containers to enjoy this summer. They make great additions to outdoor gatherings for you and your guests to enjoy their beauty, fragrance, and flavor.

*Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released **Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening**. She hosts **The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated **Melinda's Garden Moment** radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for **Birds & Blooms** magazine and was commissioned by Wild Valley Farms for her expertise to write this article. Myers' website is www.MelindaMyers.com.***

Get Ready For Spring & Summer "Backyarding." Keep Safety In Mind

"Backyarding"—the art of taking indoor activities to the outdoors—is a trend that has caught on. As winter begins to wind down, thoughts of playing in and working in our yards often kick into high gear.

Perhaps you are already dreaming of family gatherings, grilling and eating in your backyard. Or maybe you wish to add a yoga zone, design an outdoor movie theater, or build an agility course for your pet this year. Or perhaps this is the year you wish to add a pollinator garden or plant a vegetable or flower garden. Or are you hoping to get that outdoor office setup with extended WiFi?

Knowing the purpose of your yard and how it will meet the needs of your family and pets is a great start to getting "backyard ready" for these warmer weather activities. Also, knowing your climate zone and the mix of trees, shrubs, grass and flowering plants that will grow sustainably is key to designing a dream yard. After all, our yards are not only an oasis for family but also for wildlife and important pollinators such as birds, bees and butterflies.

Now is the time to start planning. Visit your nursery, plant centers, outdoor power equipment service dealers, and/or contact a landscaper, according to the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI).

"Think about how your yard can work best for you, your family, pets and community, but do it now," says Kris Kiser, CEO and President of OPEI. "And while you're getting it in top shape for warm weather, remember to keep safety top of mind especially with your equipment and tools."

Here are some tips from OPEI to get your backyard ready, safely and efficiently:

- Take stock of your

outdoor power equipment to help you maintain your yard and make big jobs easier. A lawn mower will trim the grass, but perhaps you might need a cultivator for a garden, a chain saw to take down dead tree limbs, or a leaf blower to clear debris. Having the right equipment on hand can help you save time and effort if you don't want to hire a professional.

- Follow equipment manufacturer's guidance for safety and usage of all outdoor power equipment. Look over the manual for your equipment for a refresher on how to safely use it, and read the safety information on equipment manufacturer's web sites. Review how to shut on and off equipment and make sure safety features are working and have not been disabled. Never disengage or disable manufacturer-installed safety equipment.

- Remember to keep children and pets away from outdoor power equipment. No children on mowers.

- Do not mow in reverse, and avoid starting, stopping or turning a mower on a slope. Follow manufacturer guidance to the letter on mowing on slopes.

- Service equipment as needed and according to manufacturer's directions. Well-maintained equipment will last longer and run more efficiently.

- Buy fresh fuel for gasoline-powered equipment and be sure you have matched the correct battery with the right charger. Only use batteries that are authorized for your equipment and do not use counterfeits.

- Before working in the yard, clear the area of dead limbs, sticks and debris. Inspect trees for damage and clear the work area.

By keeping this information in mind, you can get your yard in its best shape safely.

Dahlia: Queen Of The Picking Garden!

The colorful dahlia is a must-have in your picking garden. With their different shapes, colors, and flowering heights, dahlias generate a real color explosion. The best-known variety is perhaps the pale pink 'Café au Lait' dahlia. But if you really want to make colors pop, there are plenty of special dahlias to be found, from bright yellow to deep dark purple. Dahlia, the lively queen of the picking garden!

Dahlias in your picking garden

Plant your dahlia bulbs in spring, once the risk of frost has passed. The earlier you plant dahlias, the earlier you will be able to pick them. Plant dahlias at around 1.5 ft planting distance in your garden. In summer, your patience will be richly rewarded with radiant dahlias in your own picking garden!

They are also suitable for planting in pots. Grow them indoors if

you want to have flowers even earlier in the season. This is called forcing bulbs. Plant the dahlias in a pot in February or March and give them a light spot in a greenhouse. Once the risk of frost has passed, you can move the potted dahlias outside or plant them in the picking garden. The appearance of the first flower buds marks the start of the fun part: picking the dahlias! Combine your dahlias with other flowers or foliage from your garden for a color explosion in your picking bouquet.

Creating a picking garden

Why not create a picking garden of your own? We all want a colorful blanket of flowers in our own garden! Too good to be true? Not really. You only need a small plot in the garden or in an existing border to plant, care for and ultimately pick the most beautiful

flowers! If you don't have a garden, you can still do much more than you think with pots and containers.

Once you have chosen a sheltered and sunny spot for your picking flowers, it is time to choose your flower varieties. Of course, Dahlias are indispensable in your picking garden. Combine them with other picking flowers like peonies, Verbena and gypsophila.

Tips and tricks for your picking garden:

Pick flowers early in the day: harvesting picking flowers is best done in the morning. Make sure your knife is clean. Leave your flowers to rest in a bucket filled with water for a few hours before putting your bouquet together.

Don't pick too many flowers at the same time: decide in advance how much you need and cut only those flowers. After all, you don't want to

waste your beautiful blooms!

To supplement your picking flowers: for additional greenery, take a look around the garden. You may have beautiful shrubs or ornamental grasses in the garden from which you can pick some additional foliage to combine in the picking bouquet.

In the vase: if you want to create a spectacular result, choose a vase in a color that combines nicely with your picking flowers.

Flowers will last longer in a clean vase. Cleaning your vase with a little natural vinegar helps remove any lingering bacteria in the vase.

Picking stimulates the production of new dahlia blooms. In this way, you can continue to pick flowers for longer!

Do you want to find out more about summer bulbs? Then visit www.flowerbulbs.com.



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New Hocking Hills Butterfly Trail Educates And Entertains Visitors, Fosters Pollinator Wellbeing

The Hocking Hills region of southeast Ohio has just unveiled its new Butterfly Trail. Designed to educate visitors about the importance of pollinators, while offering one-of-a-kind experiences, the Hocking Hills Butterfly Trail is a project of Logan in Bloom with support from Hocking Hills Tourism Association. Outlined on both a colorful map and a passport, the trail includes 14 locations, each featuring a gorgeous pair of human-sized butterfly wings replicating a different butterfly found in the region. These “selfie stations” give visitors a colorful way to take home memories from each stop while learning all about the featured butterfly, including its habitat and food sources. Created from actual photographs of each species, the massive wings accurately depict the butterfly species they represent. The wing stations are open to the public sunrise to sunset, unless otherwise noted on the Butterfly Trail map.

“Hocking Hills Butterfly Trail encourages stewardship of our natural areas by demonstrating how important pollinators are to the wellbeing of the very thing visitors come to here to experience: nature and wildlife,” said Explore Hocking Hills Executive Director Karen Raymore. “A diverse group of partners came together to implement the trail, creating outstanding visitor experiences that educate while making each stop fun and interactive.”

In addition to photo ops and education, two stops on the trail offer visitors unforgettable hands-on opportunities for a deeper dive into local pollinators. The monarch waystation and butterfly garden at Hocking Hills Regional

Welcome Center offers travelers the chance to witness the entire lifecycle of monarchs, from young caterpillars feeding (May-August) to their becoming chrysalides and finally, emerging as monarchs (late August-October). Guests can then take part in monarch migration research, tagging and releasing the butterflies as they begin their migration to Mexico. At Butterfly Ridge Conservation Center, guided hikes traverse 21 acres of native pollinator-friendly prairie, forest and gardens. There are workshops, tools and even seeds available to help visitors create butterfly habitat at home. After-dark moth lighting events take visitors on a one-of-a-kind safari every second-fourth Saturday, June-August.

The printable map, passport and bonus butterfly coloring book pages further add the experience. Travelers are urged to visit explorehockinghills.com/hocking-hills-butterfly-trail/ before heading to the Hocking Hills to download their map and passport. Both are also available at the Regional Welcome Center, 13178 State Route 664 S. in Logan, along with a special butterfly trail sticker. Visitors are also urged to join in the educational mission of the trail by sharing their Butterfly Trail photos on social media with the hashtag: #hockinghillsbutterfly-trail.

The 14 featured butterflies and their stops include:

1. Monarch, Hocking Hills Regional Welcome Center, Monarch Waystation #20927
2. Great spangled fritillary, Capital University Primmer Outdoor Learning Center
3. Orange sulfur, Hocking Valley Commu-

nity Hospital

4. Silver-spotted, skipper, Worthington Park Bowen House
5. Clouded sulfur, The Bowen House
6. Red admiral, Hocking County Historical and Genealogical Society
7. Pipevine swallowtail, Hocking Soil & Water Conservation District, Hocking County Fairgrounds
8. Viceroy, City of Logan Community Garden
9. Red-spotted purple, Logan High School
10. Pearl crescent, Chieftain Elementary School
11. Hackberry emperor, Rockbridge State Nature Preserve
12. Eastern Tiger swallowtail, Appalachia Ohio Alliance Conservation Demonstration Site
13. Spicebush Swallowtail, Bishop Educational Gardens
14. Eastern comma, Butterfly Ridge

Located 40 miles southeast of Columbus, Ohio, Hocking Hills offers once-in-a-lifetime experiences that make every day feel like Saturday, with plenty of Admission: FREE activities, including the John Glenn Astronomy Park. The region boasts a wide variety of affordable lodging, from glamping, cabins, cottages and luxe woodland lodges to hotels and inns. In addition to hiking trails, parks and forests, the Hocking Hills offers rappelling, guided hikes, kayaking, boat rentals, off-road segway tours and zipline canopy tours. Stellar stargazing at the John Glenn Astronomy Park, unique galleries, gift and antique shops; canoeing; horseback riding; birding; fishing; spas and more add to the allure of Hocking Hills as the perfect place to unplug. Complete traveler information is available ExploreHockingHills.com or 1-800-Hocking (800-462-5464).

Wyandotte Caves Reopen For Summer Tours Memorial Day Weekend

The caves at Wyandotte Caves State Recreation Area (SRA) in Crawford County will re-open for fee-based, guided cave tours on May 27, the Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend. The tours will be offered on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays through Labor Day, Sept. 4.

Wyandotte Caves SRA is managed by nearby O'Bannon Woods State Park and is home to Little Wyandotte and Big Wyandotte caves.

In 2009, state officials closed Wyandotte and all other caves, tunnels, sinkholes, and abandoned mines on DNR properties in an attempt to slow the westward movement of white nose syndrome (WNS), a disease that kills bats.

The caves reopened in 2016 during Indiana State Parks' Centennial Celebration with decontamination protocols in place for guests to reduce the possible movement of WNS to other caves. The caves were closed again in 2020 as part of DNR's COVID-19 pandemic precautions.

Big Wyandotte Cave will close to tours after Labor Day weekend because it is a significant overwintering refuge for Indiana bats. Little Wyandotte Cave will remain open in September and October for scheduled tours with school and other groups.

“We are looking forward to introducing a new generation of visi-

tors to this unique cave system and its features while remembering the significance of this site as a winter hibernating location for the federally endangered Indiana bat,” said Terry Coleman, director of Indiana State Parks.

The two types of tours offered mirror the schedule followed before the pandemic, and fees remain the same as they were in 2016-2019.

Big Wyandotte Cave tours will be offered at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday or by reservation Monday through Thursday for children ages 6-11 and adults 12 and older. The huge underground “Monument Mountain” is a highlight of this 1.5-mile trip through the deeper sections of Big Wyandotte Cave. Rare formations called helicities, plus gypsum, epsomite, and prehistoric flint quarries add variety. Tours of Big Wyandotte are considered rugged and are available only to visitors ages 6 and older.

Big Wyandotte Cave Tour Fees:

- Big Wyandotte Two-Hour Tour – Adult \$18
- Big Wyandotte Two-Hour Tour Ages 6-11 \$9
- Big Wyandotte Two-Hour Tour (Prearranged Group-Adults) \$14
- Big Wyandotte Two-Hour Tour (Prearranged Group-Students) \$8

Little Wyandotte tours start at 9 a.m. and are available every half-hour until 3:30 p.m. on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday or by reservation Monday through Thursday for groups. Little Wyandotte Cave is smaller and totally separated from Big Wyandotte Cave. It offers a comprehensive view of many flowstone and dripstone formations on the 30-minute tour. Sometimes cave-dwelling species can also be seen. Tours of Little Wyandotte Cave are considered easy and are open to all ages.

Little Wyandotte Cave Tour Fees:

- Little Wyandotte Tour - Adult \$8
- Little Wyandotte Tour - Children \$4
- Little Wyandotte Tour - 6 years old or under Free
- Little Wyandotte Tour - Prearranged Group \$3

For clarification, a prearranged group is defined as 10 or more participants from an educational institution or nonprofit.

To make reservations for a group, please call the park office at 812-738-8232.

Learn more about O'Bannon Woods and Wyandotte Caves at on.IN.gov/obannon-woodssp.

To view all DNR news releases, please see dnr.IN.gov.



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